United Nations A/C.1/64/PV.24

General Assembly
Sixty-fourth session

Official Records

First Committee
24th meeting
Friday, 11 June 2010, 11 a.m.
New York

Chairperson: Mr. José Luis Cancela ..... (Uruguay)

The meeting was called to order at 11 a.m.

Election of the Chairperson and the Bureau of the First Committee for the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly

The Chairperson (*spoke in Spanish*): In accordance with rule 99 (a) of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, this meeting has been convened to elect the Chairperson of the First Committee for the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly.

On behalf of the First Committee, I would like to convey to the other members of the Committee's Bureau at the sixty-fourth session — the Vice-Chairpersons, Mr. Hilario Davide of the Philippines, Mr. Hossam Aly of Egypt and Mr. Florian Laudi of Germany, and the Rapporteur, Ms. Tetyana Pokhval'ona of Ukraine — our appreciation for their valuable contribution and assistance in guiding the work of the Committee to a successful conclusion.

We shall now proceed with the election, starting with the Chairperson of the First Committee. It is my privilege and honour to nominate the candidate of the Group of Eastern European States, His Excellency Mr. Miloš Koterec, Permanent Representative of Slovakia to the United Nations, for the post of Chairperson of the First Committee for the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly.

Ambassador Miloš Koterec assumed his functions as Permanent Representative of Slovakia to the United Nations in September 2009. Mr. Koterec was a Member of the European Parliament from 2004 to July 2009. Prior to his election, he served as Deputy Permanent Representative in his country's Mission to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

From 1999 until 2001, Ambassador Koterec worked in his Foreign Ministry's Department for the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, Disarmament and Council of Europe, first as Chief of the Disarmament Section and in 2000 as Director. From 1995 until 1999 he worked at the Permanent Mission of Slovakia to the United Nations in New York. Ambassador Koterec started his civil servant career in 1993 and was later appointed Chief of the United Nations Section in the Department of the United Nations and Other International Organizations in his country's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In the past, Ambassador Koterec served as Bureau member in various disarmament bodies as well as Chairman of the Ottawa Convention Committee on Stockpile Destruction. He graduated in 1986 from the Slovak Technical University in Bratislava Faculty of Electro-technical Engineering and Informatics, and in 1992 he graduated from the University of the Economy, Faculty of Trade, in Bratislava. In 1994 he completed a post-graduate programme in international relations and diplomacy at the Faculty of Law of the Commenius University in the same city.

Given his vast experience and impressive credentials, it is truly an honour for me to submit his candidature for the chairmanship of the Disarmament and International Security Committee to the Committee today.

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Since there are no other nominations, may I take it that, in accordance with rule 103 of the rules of procedure and with established practice, the First Committee wishes to dispense with the secret ballot and to declare Ambassador Miloš Koterec of Slovakia elected Chairperson of the First Committee for the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly by acclamation?

It was so decided.

The Chairperson (*spoke in Spanish*): On behalf of the Committee, I congratulate Ambassador Koterec on his election and I pledge my personal support and cooperation, and that of the delegation of Uruguay, to him as he carries out his duties throughout the sixty-fifth session.

Regarding the election of three Vice-Chairpersons and a Rapporteur of the First Committee for the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly, I would like to inform delegations of the following: the Committee secretariat has received four nominations, endorsed by the respective regional groups, for the posts of Vice-Chairpersons: for the Group of African States, Mr. Mohamed Fathi Edrees of Egypt; for the Group of Asian States, Mr. Carlos Sorreta of the Philippines; for the Group of Western European and other States, Mr. Herman Schaper of the Netherlands; and for the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, Mr. Enrique Ochoa of Mexico. The secretariat has received no nomination for the post or Rapporteur.

It is therefore necessary to allow some time for consultations among the regional groups as to which candidates should assume the posts of Vice-Chairperson and which candidate should assume the post of Rapporteur of the First Committee. The First Committee will revert to this matter at a later date, to be announced in a timely manner.

I now give the floor to the Chairperson-elect of the First Committee for the sixty-fifth session, Ambassador Miloš Koterec.

Mr. Koterec (Slovakia): I highly appreciate the trust placed in me by the States Members of the United Nations. I view this as a great honour, as well as a challenge, especially at a time of renewed determination on the part of the international community to move the disarmament agenda forward after many years of standstill.

I am confident that I will be able to perform my duties as Chair of this important Committee during the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly.

The meeting rose at 11.10 a.m.